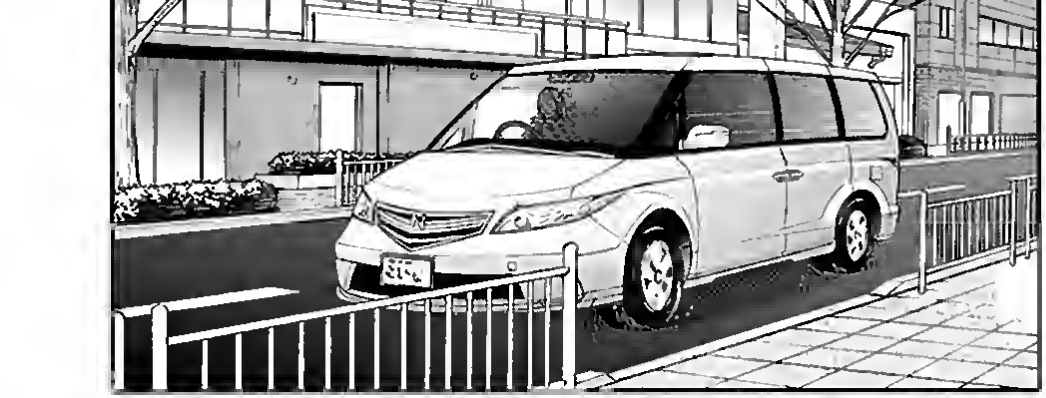
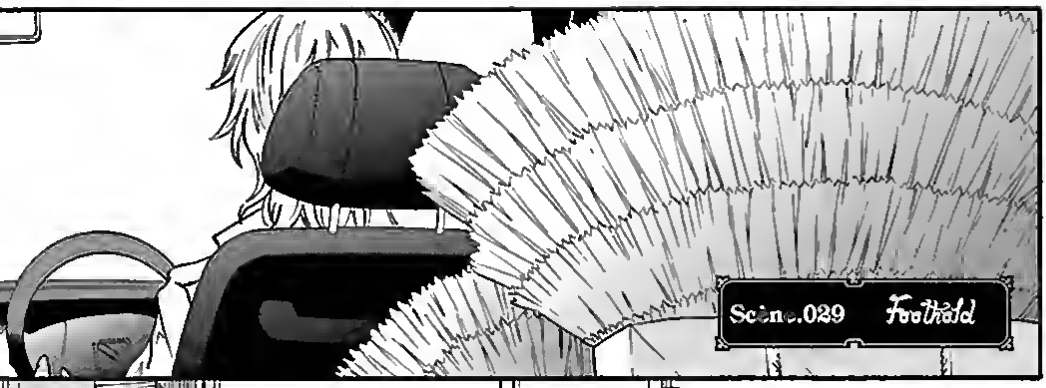
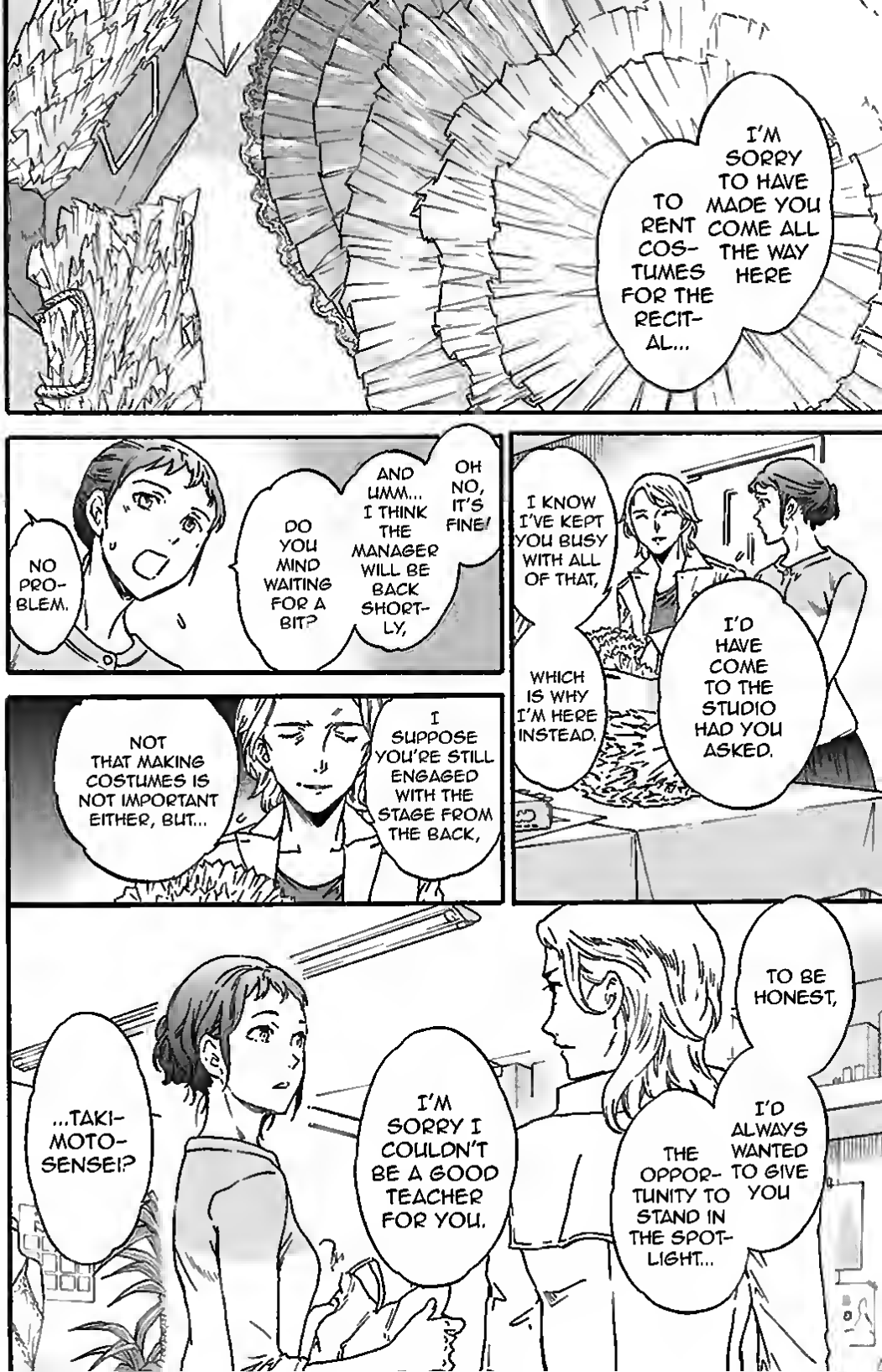
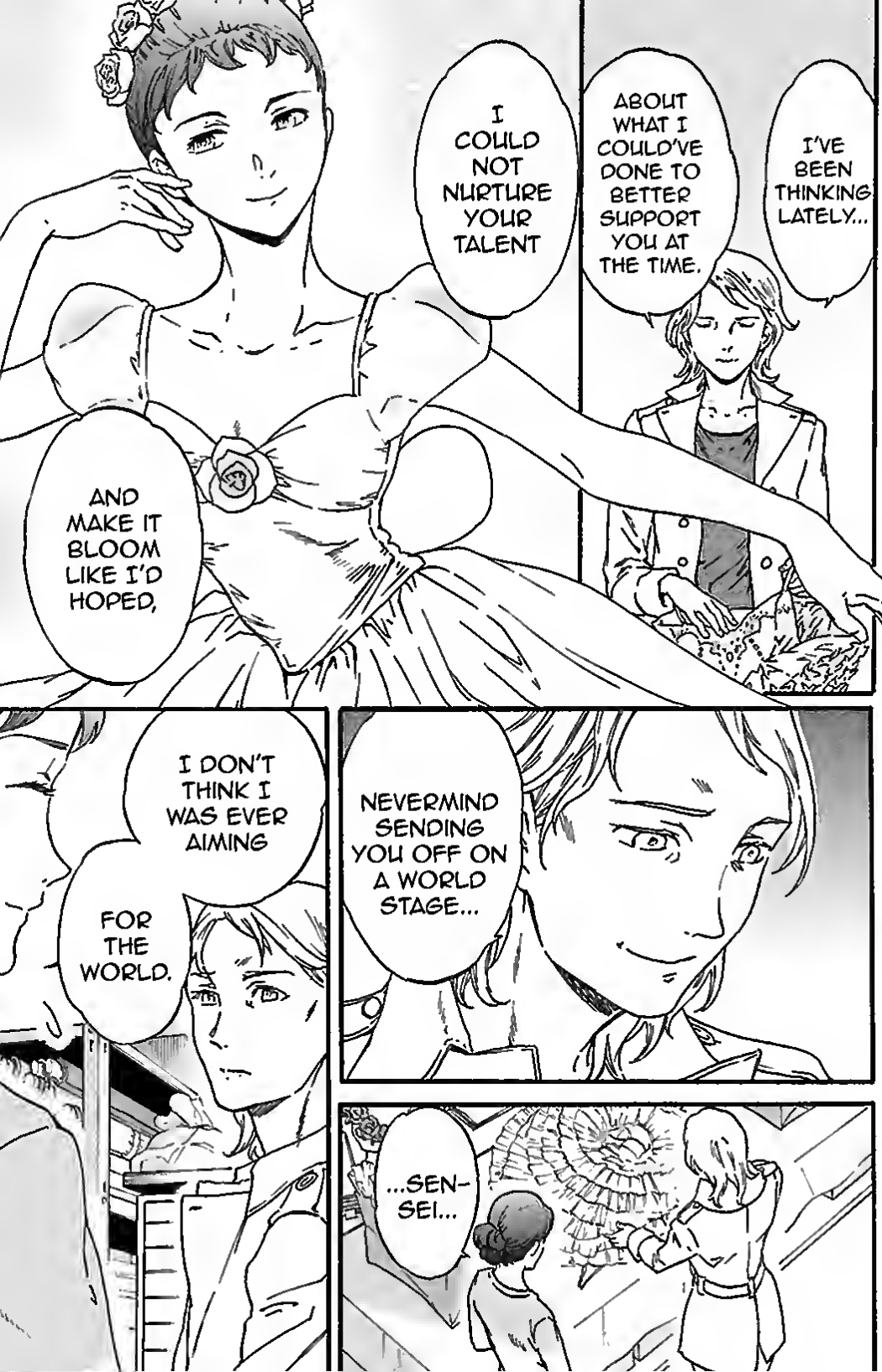



Scene.029 Foothold

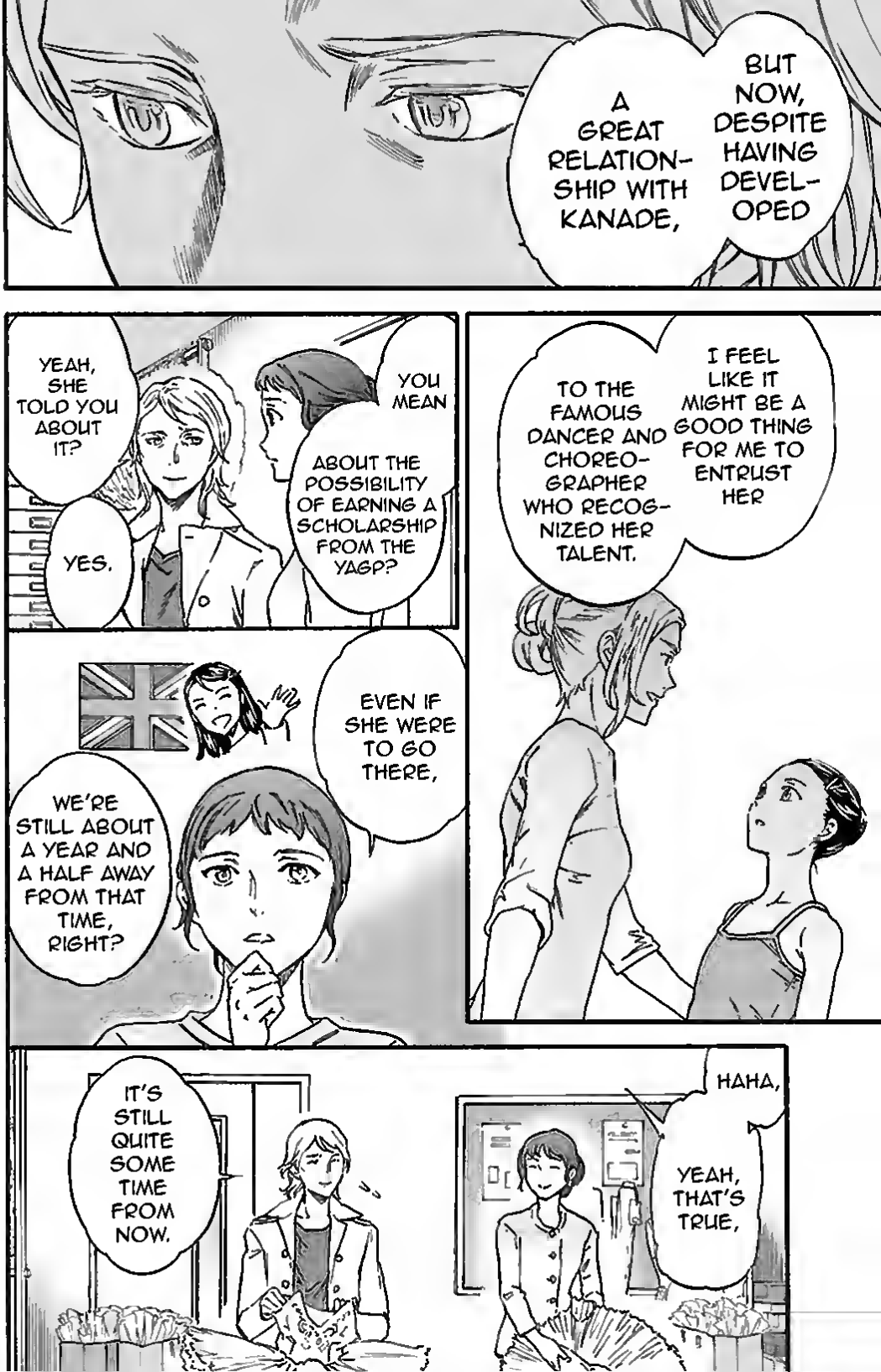
TAKI-
MOTO-
SENSEI!


I'M SORRY TO HAVE MADE YOU COME ALL THE WAY HERE TO RENT COSTUMES FOR THE RECITAL...
OH NO, IT'S FINE!
AND UMM... I THINK THE MANAGER WILL BE BACK SHORTLY,
DO YOU MIND WAITING FOR A BIT?
NO PROBLEM.
I KNOW I'VE KEPT YOU BUSY WITH ALL OF THAT,
I'D HAVE COME TO THE STUDIO HAD YOU ASKED.
WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE INSTEAD.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE STILL ENGAGED WITH THE STAGE FROM THE BACK,
NOT THAT MAKING COSTUMES IS NOT IMPORTANT EITHER, BUT...
TO BE HONEST,
I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAND IN THE SPOTLIGHT...
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE A GOOD TEACHER FOR YOU.
...TAKIMOTO-SENSEI?

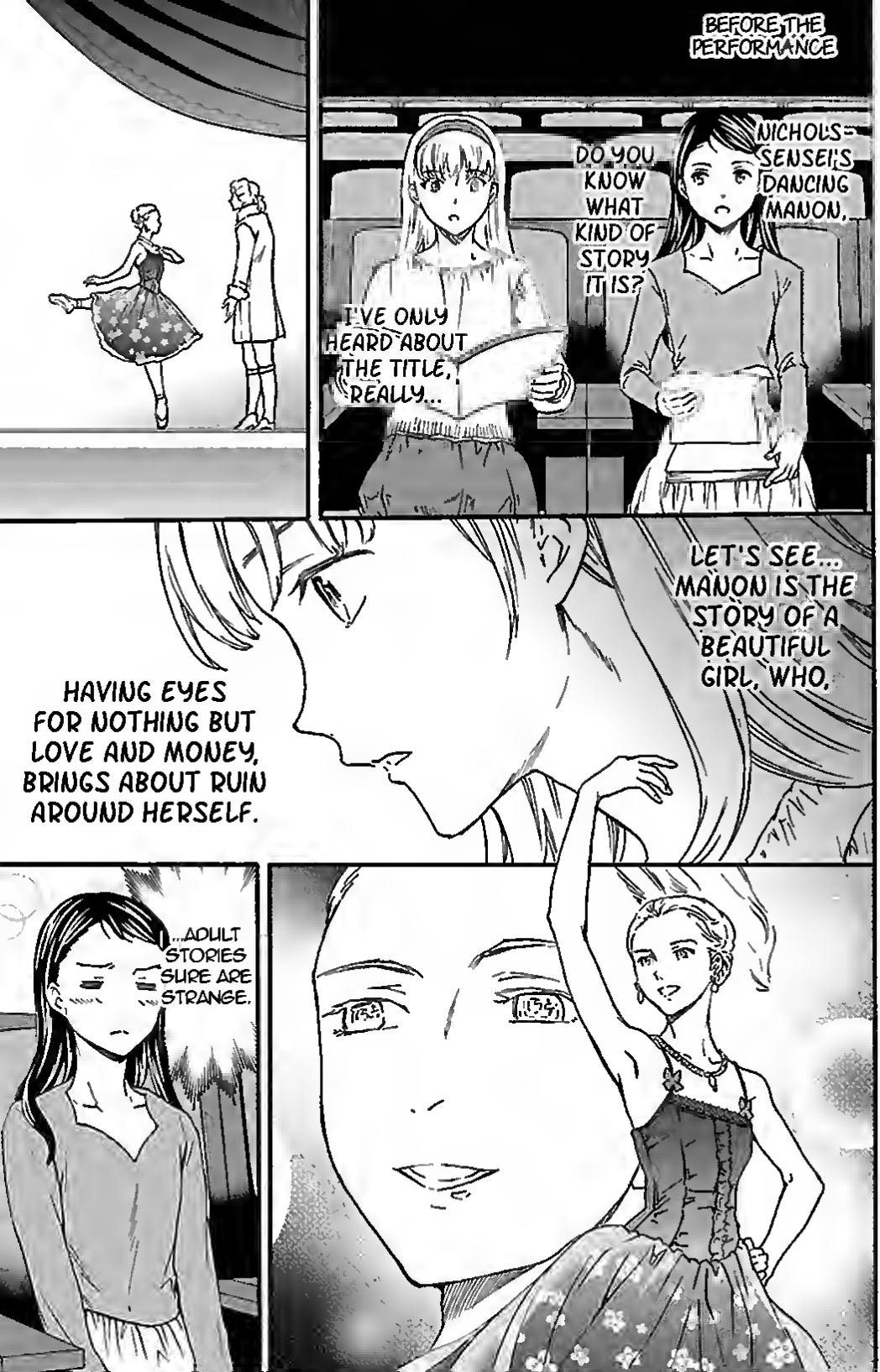

I'VE BEEN THINKING LATELY...
ABOUT WHAT I COULD'VE DONE TO BETTER SUPPORT YOU AT THE TIME.
I COULD NOT NURTURE YOUR TALENT
AND MAKE IT BLOOM LIKE I'D HOPED,
NEVERMIND SENDING YOU OFF ON A WORLD STAGE...
I DON'T THINK I WAS EVER AIMING FOR THE WORLD.
...SEN-SEI...

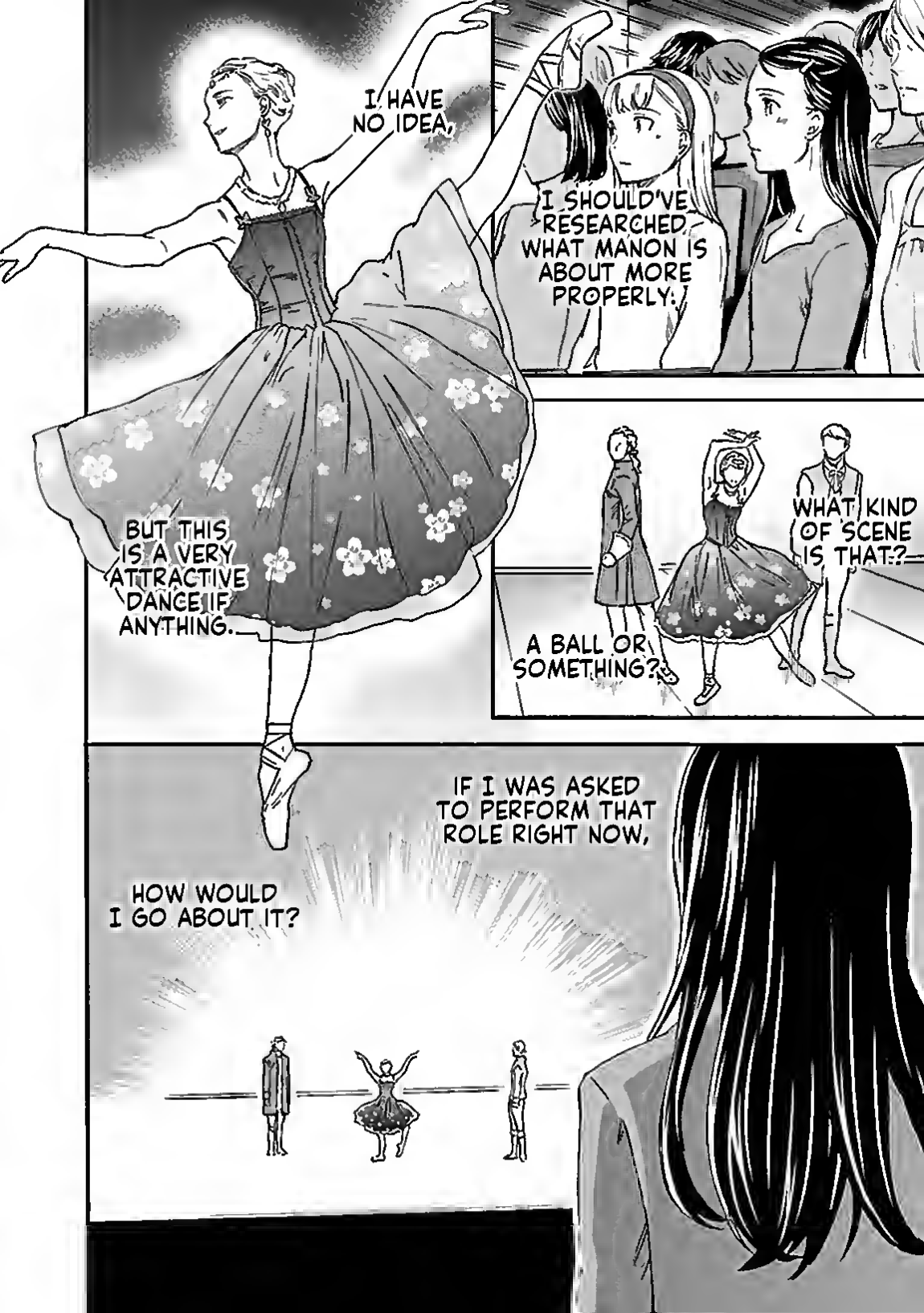
I HAD NO CLEAR VISION OF THE FUTURE.
I WOULD PROBABLY JUST HAVE CONTINUED TO DANCE AIMLESSLY.
THAT'S WHAT I REALIZED WHEN I FLUNKED THAT COMPETITION.
DANCERS WITH VISION STAY FOCUSED AND ARE NOT THAT EASILY SHAKEN.
I FAILED IN THAT ASPECT.
IF I WAS OFFERED AND HAD ACCEPTED A SCHOLARSHIP,
I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LOST MY WAY, AWAY FROM MY COUNTRY, ALONE WITHOUT YOU.
I'M THANKFUL THAT YOU'VE TAUGHT ME, SENSEI.

I'LL TREASURE ALL THE TIMES YOU LET ME PERFORM ON STAGE,
RECITALS AND COMPETITIONS ALIKE, FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
RISA...
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT BEING ON THE RECEIVING END OF THESE HEARTFELT THANKS...
I SEEM TO MOVE TO TEARS EASILY THESE DAYS...
I... PART OF THE REASON I CAME BACK TO JAPAN
...
WAS TO OPEN A STUDIO THAT WOULD WELCOME ANYONE WHO LOVES TO DANCE REGARDLESS OF THEIR ABILITY.


BUT NOW, DESPITE HAVING DEVEL-OPED A GREAT RELATION-SHIP WITH KANADE,
I FEEL LIKE IT MIGHT BE A GOOD THING FOR ME TO ENTRUST HER TO THE FAMOUS DANCER AND CHOREO-GRAPHER WHO RECOG-NIZED HER TALENT.
YOU MEAN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF EARNING A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE YAGP?
YEAH, SHE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT?
YES.
EVEN IF SHE WERE TO GO THERE,
WE'RE STILL ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AWAY FROM THAT TIME, RIGHT?
HAHA,
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE,
IT'S STILL QUITE SOME TIME FROM NOW.

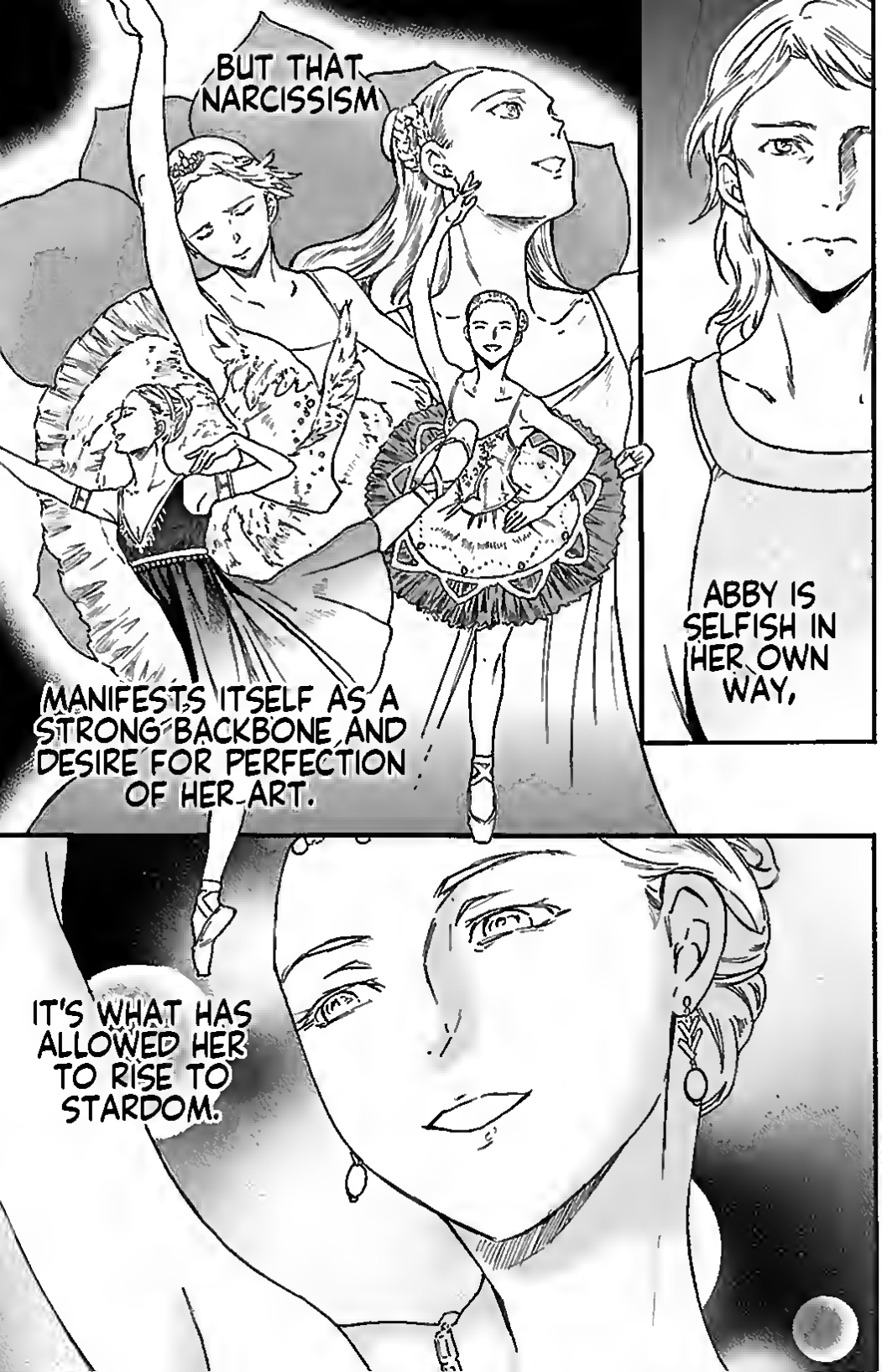
I TRULY ENJOY TEACHING HER.
"SHE'S RESPON-SIVE..."
YOU'RE RIGHT, ABBY,
IT MAY BE THAT I'VE GROWN ATTACHED TO KANADE.
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT YOU, SPECIFICALLY, TEACHING HER,
AL-THOUGH I HOPE I'M WRONG ABOUT THAT...
The Royal Ballet

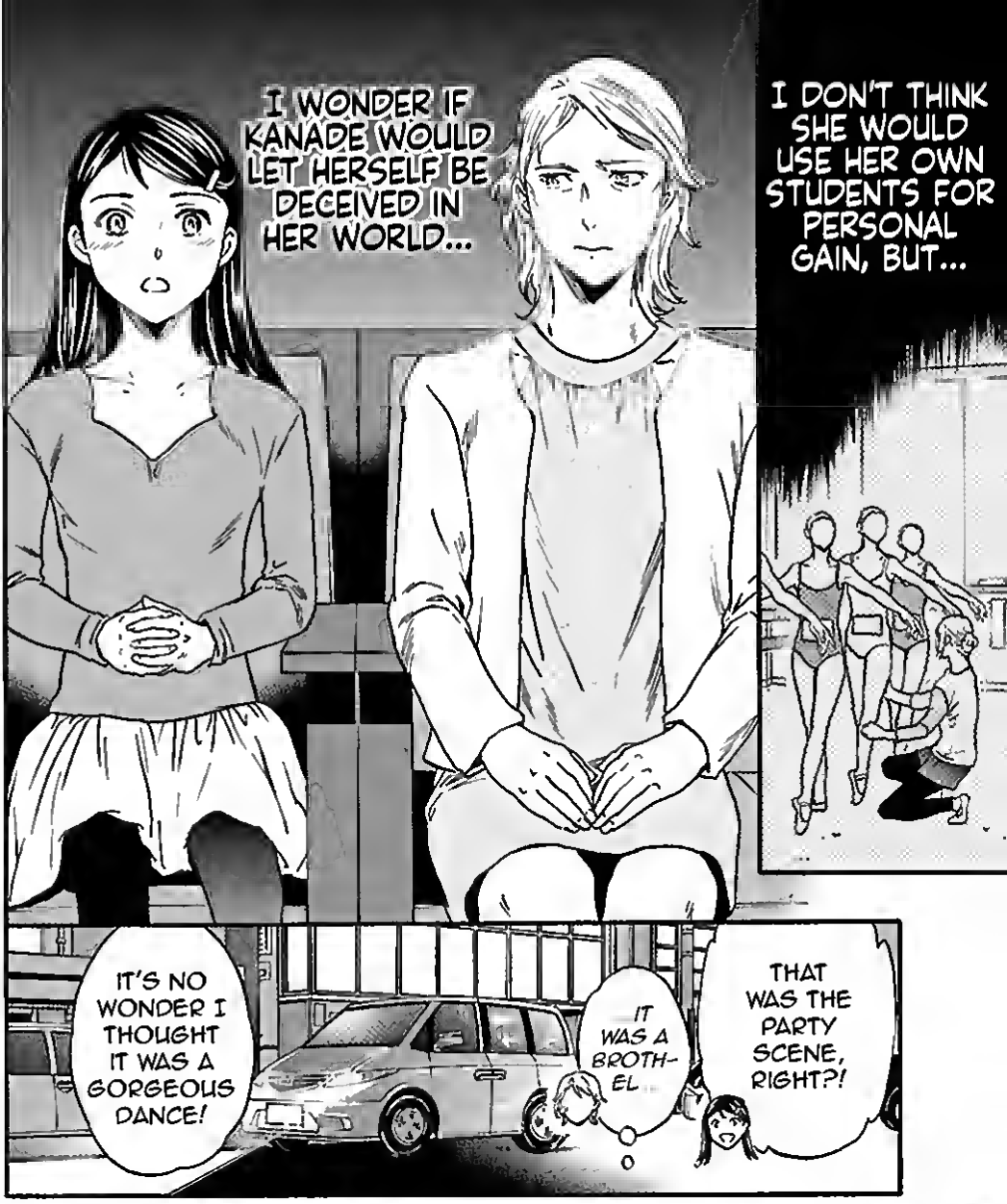

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE
NICHOLS-SENSEI'S DANCING MANON.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF STORY IT IS?
I'VE ONLY HEARD ABOUT THE TITLE, REALLY...
LET'S SEE... MANON IS THE STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, WHO,
HAVING EYES FOR NOTHING BUT LOVE AND MONEY, BRINGS ABOUT RUIN AROUND HERSELF.
...ADULT STORIES SURE ARE STRANGE.

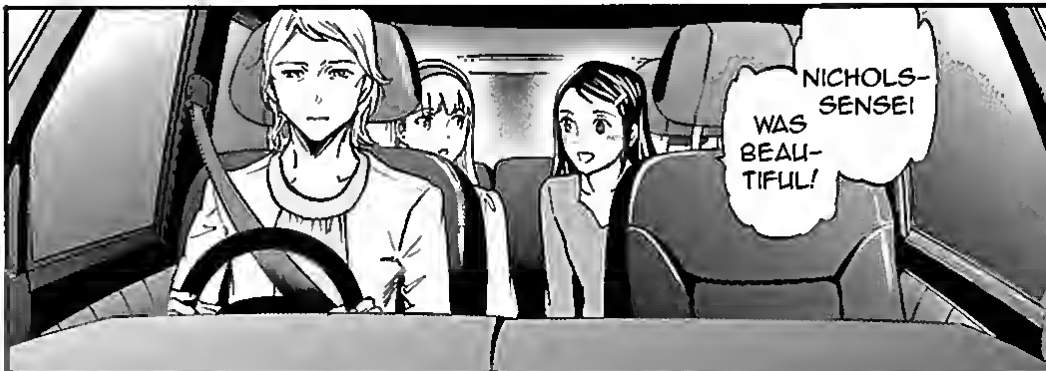

I HAVE NO IDEA,
BUT THIS IS A VERY ATTRACTIVE DANCE IF ANYTHING.
I SHOULD'VE RESEARCHED WHAT MANON IS ABOUT MORE PROPERLY.
WHAT KIND OF SCENE IS THAT?
A BALL OR SOMETHING?
IF I WAS ASKED TO PERFORM THAT ROLE RIGHT NOW,
HOW WOULD I GO ABOUT IT?

WOULD I IMITATE NICHOLS-SENSEI ONCE AGAIN?
I MAY KNOW THE STORY, ROUGHLY,
TAKE A FIRM LOOK AT IT...
BUT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT MANON'S CHARACTER.

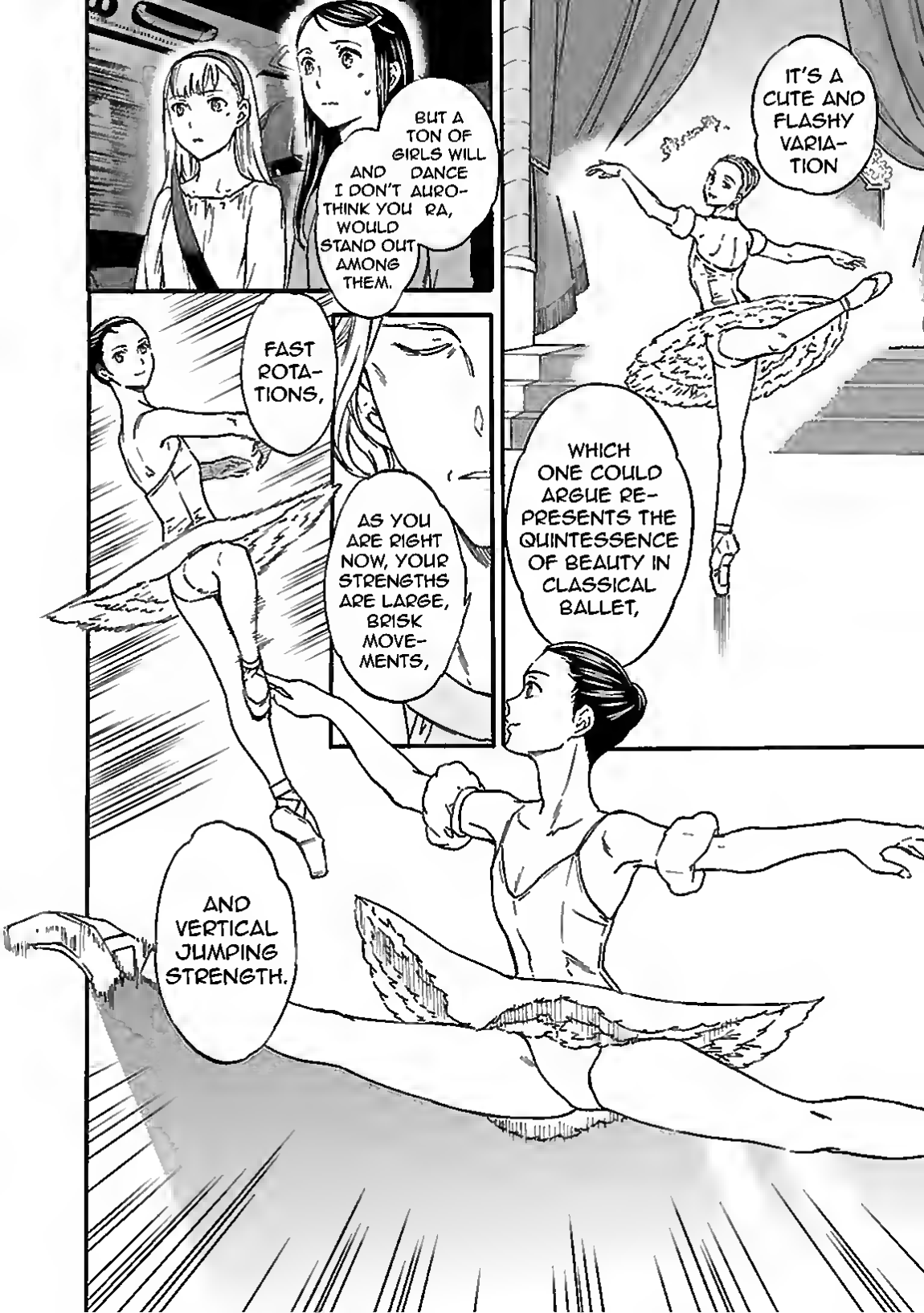
SO THAT YOU DON'T MISS A SINGLE STEP.
YEAH...
MANON'S CHAR-ACTER REALLY SUITS HER.

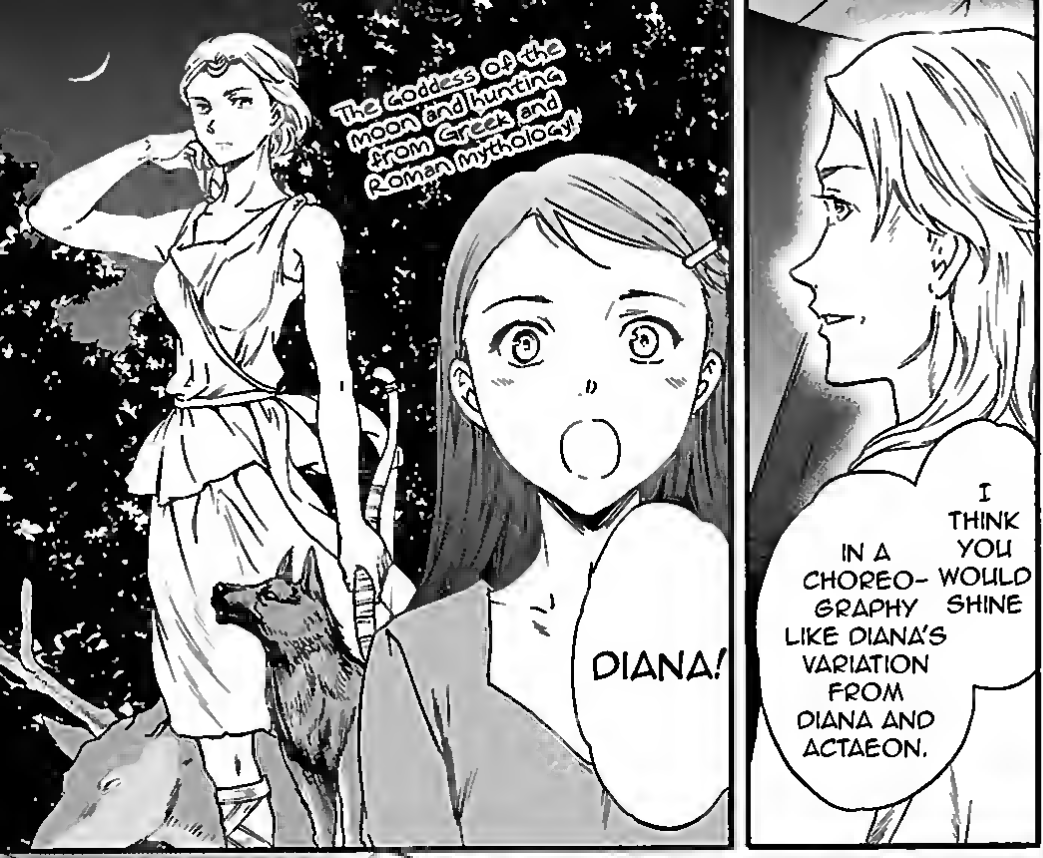

BUT THAT NARCISSISM
ABBY IS SELFISH IN HER OWN WAY,
MANIFESTS ITSELF AS A STRONG BACKBONE AND DESIRE FOR PERFECTION OF HER ART.
IT'S WHAT HAS ALLOWED HER TO RISE TO STARDOM.

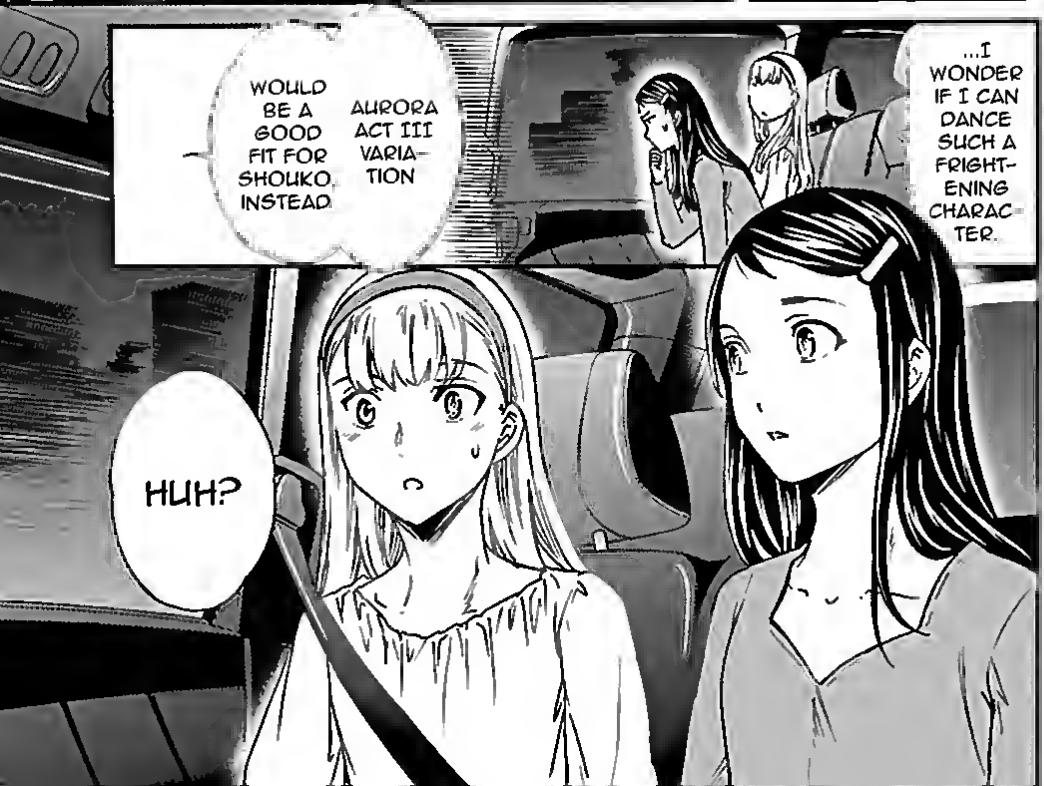

I WONDER IF KANADE WOULD LET HERSELF BE DECEIVED IN HER WORLD...
I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD USE HER OWN STUDENTS FOR PERSONAL GAIN, BUT...
IT'S NO WONDER I THOUGHT IT WAS A GORGEOUS DANCE!
IT WAS A BROTH-EL...
THAT WAS THE PARTY SCENE, RIGHT?!

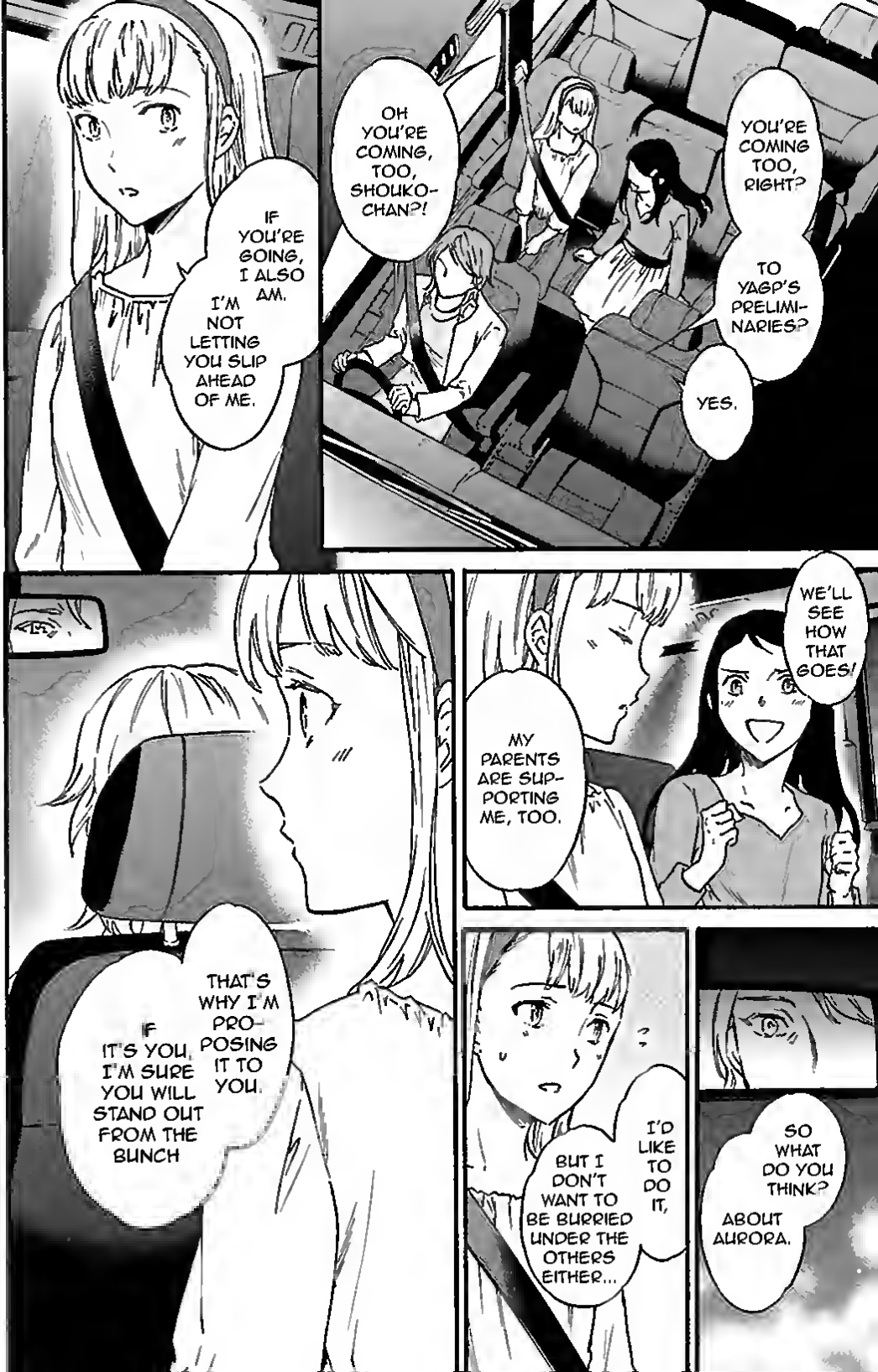

NICHOLS-SENSEI WAS BEAU-TIFUL!

...KA-NADE, WHICH VARIATION WOULD YOU LIKE TO DANCE AT THE YAGP?
AURORA ACT III VARIATION!
IT'S NOT A BAD OPTION
...THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
...IS THAT NOT GOOD?
IF ONE WANTS TO GET RESULTS QUICK-LY,

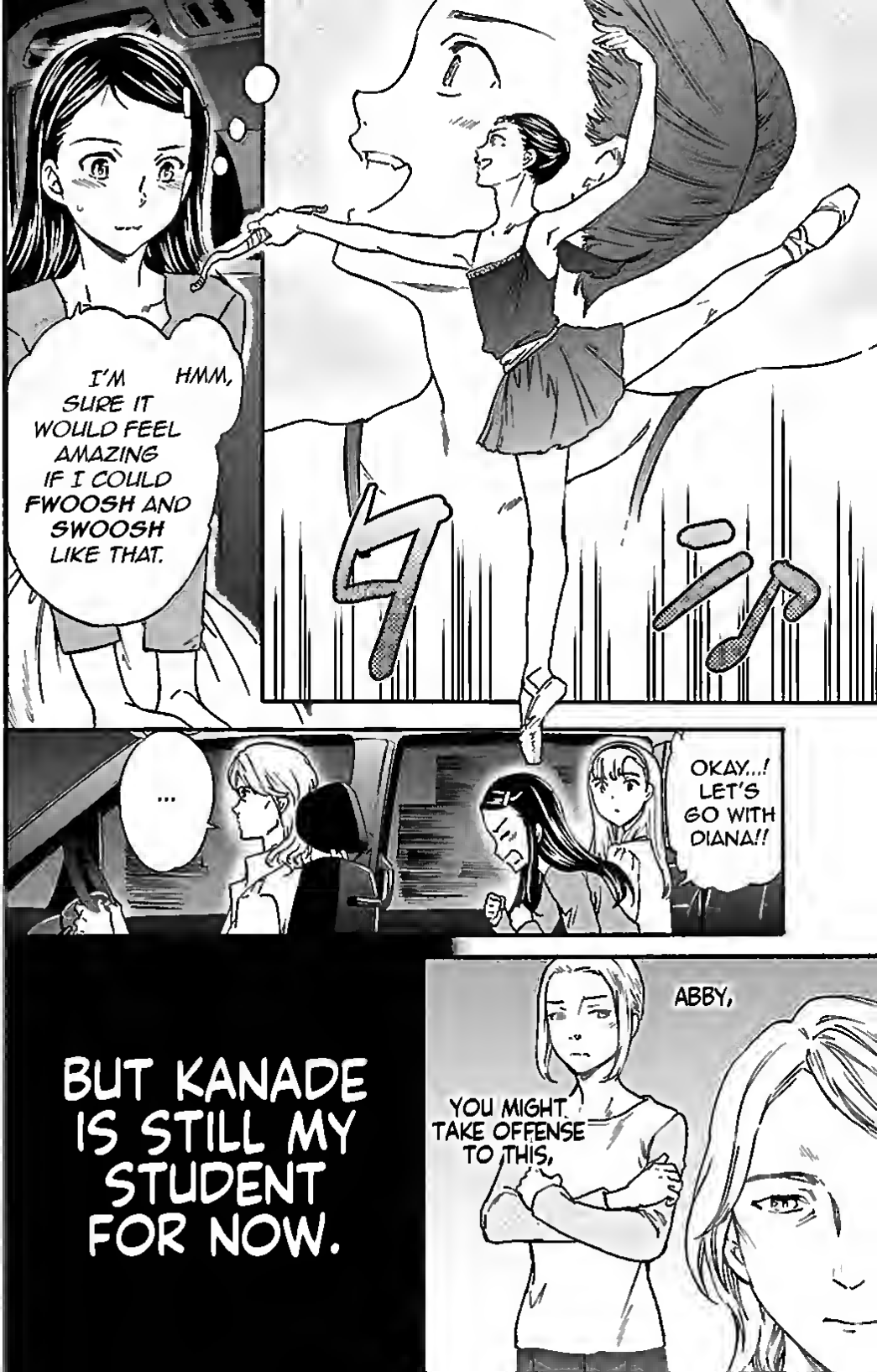

BUT A TON OF GIRLS WILL DANCE AND I DON'T THINK YOU AURORA, WOULD STAND OUT AMONG THEM.
IT'S A CUTE AND FLASHY VARIATION
FAST ROTATIONS,
AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, YOUR STRENGTHS ARE LARGE, BRISK MOVEMENTS,
WHICH ONE COULD ARGUE REPRESENTS THE QUINTESSENCE OF BEAUTY IN CLASSICAL BALLET,
AND VERTICAL JUMPING STRENGTH.


The goddess of the moon and hunting from Greek and Roman mythology!
DIANA!
I THINK YOU WOULD SHINE IN A CHOREOGRAPHY LIKE DIANA'S VARIATION FROM DIANA AND ACTAEON.

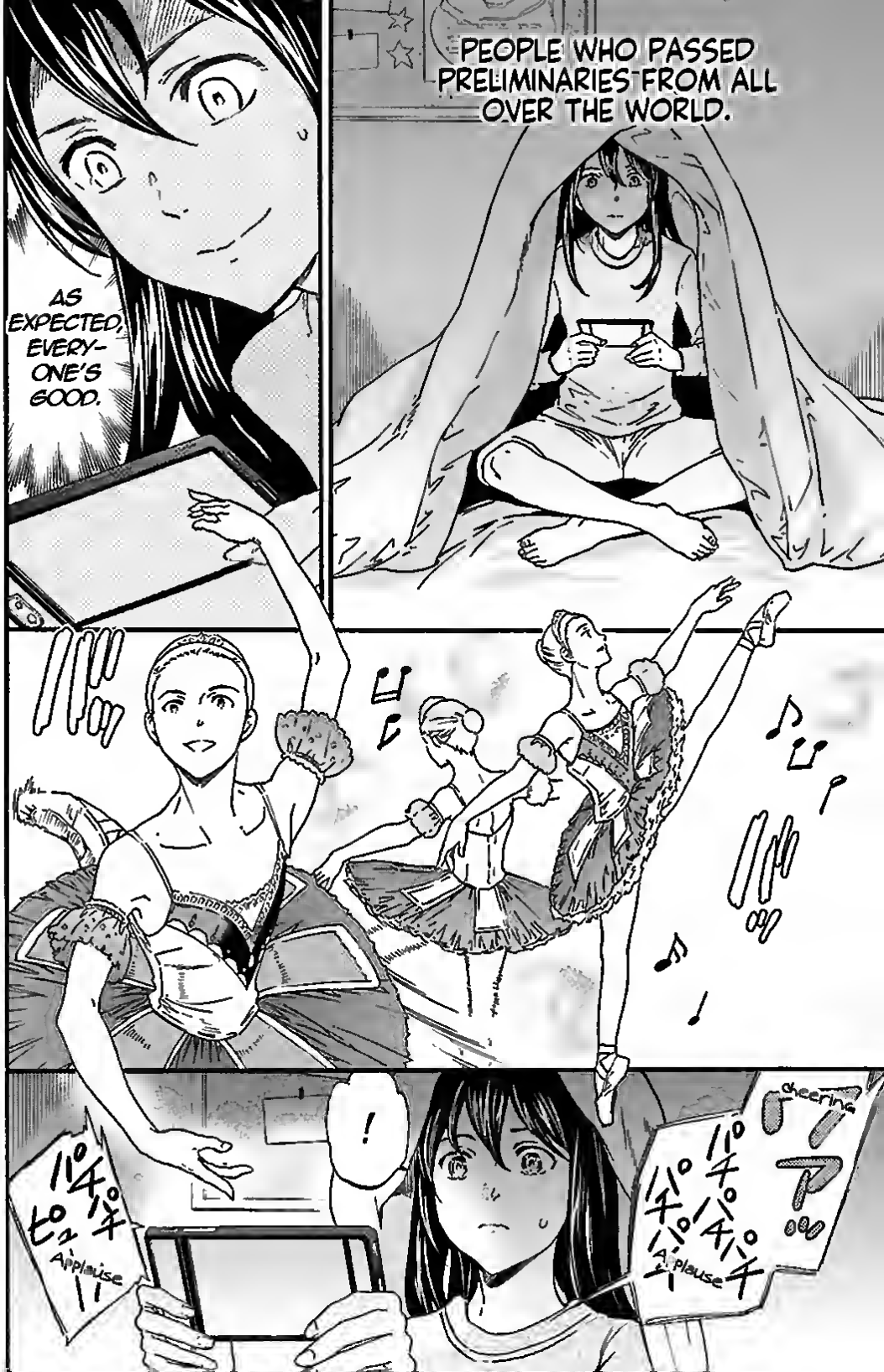

...I WONDER IF I CAN DANCE SUCH A FRIGHTENING CHARACTER.
AURORA ACT III VARIATION WOULD BE A GOOD FIT FOR SHOUKO, INSTEAD
HUH?

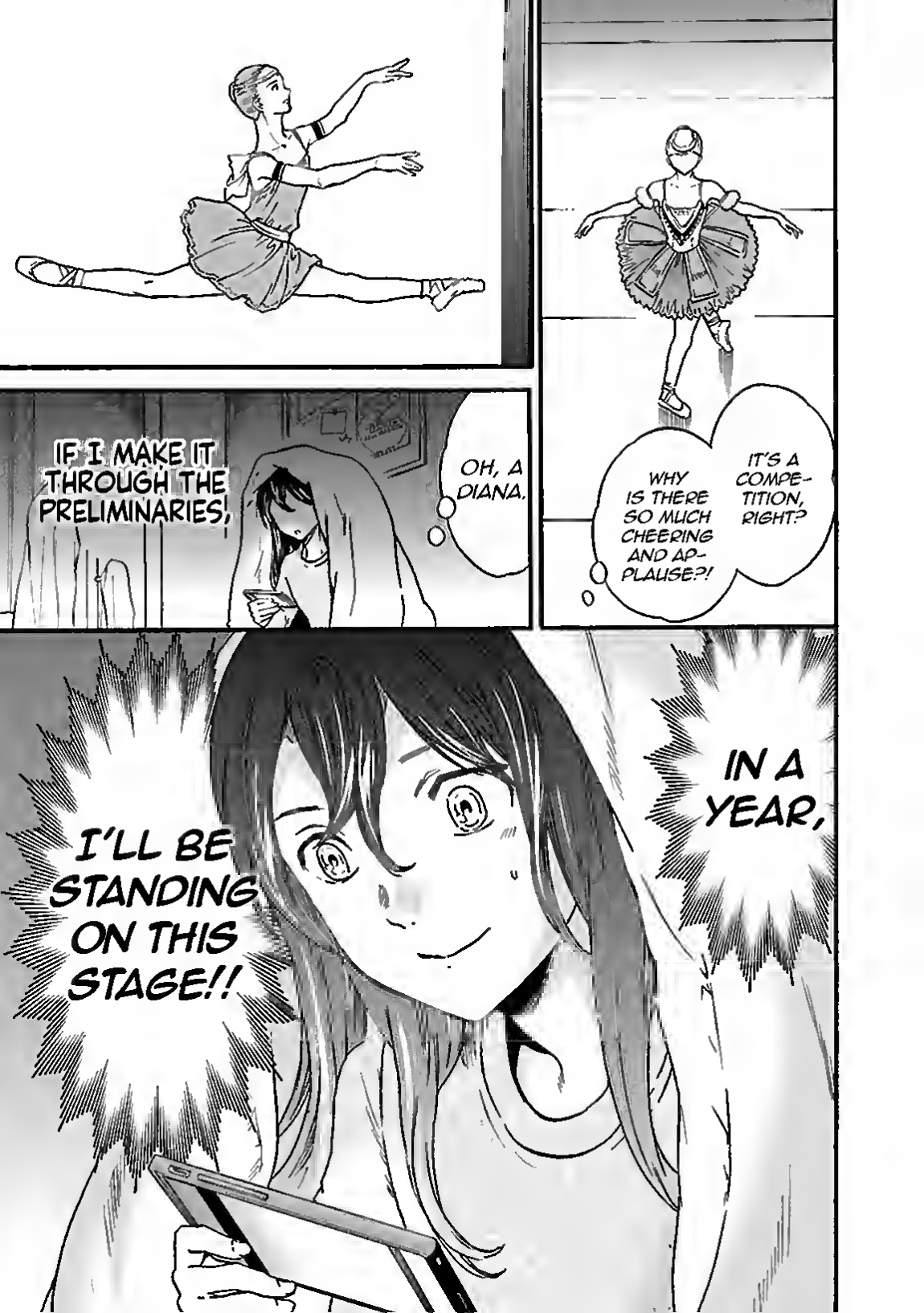

OH YOU'RE COMING, TOO, SHOUKO-CHAN?!
YOU'RE COMING TOO, RIGHT?
TO YAGP'S PRELIMI-NARIES?
YES.
IF YOU'RE GOING, I ALSO AM.
I'M NOT LETTING YOU SLIP AHEAD OF ME.
WE'LL SEE HOW THAT GOES!
MY PARENTS ARE SUP-PORTING ME, TOO.
THAT'S WHY I'M PRO-POSING IT TO YOU.
IF IT'S YOU, I'M SURE YOU WILL STAND OUT FROM THE BUNCH
I'D LIKE TO DO IT,
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE BURRIED UNDER THE OTHERS EITHER...
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ABOUT AURORA.

AURO-
RA~
NOW I'M JEAL-OUS~
I HATE TO ADMIT IT,
BUT I UNDER-STAND AND AGREE WITH TAKIMOTO-SENSEI...
YOUR AURORA WOULD UNDOUBTLY BE PRETTIER THAN MINE.
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT,
BUT I DO THINK THAT DIANA WOULD SUIT YOUR STYLE BETTER EITHER WAY.
YOU THINK SO, TOO?
MULLING OVER


I'M SURE IT WOULD FEEL AMAZING IF I COULD FWOOSH AND SWOOSH LIKE THAT.
HMM,
タン
...
OKAY...! LET'S GO WITH DIANA!!
BUT KANADE IS STILL MY STUDENT FOR NOW.
ABBY,
YOU MIGHT TAKE OFFENSE TO THIS,

2:00
50 08
I'LL MAKE GREAT USE OF MY TIME LEFT WITH HER.
BZZZ
BZZZ
..Mm.
YAGP FINALS' BROADCAST.
AND IT'S IN THE AFTER-NOON THERE...
SO LATE...
I'M TIRED...


PEOPLE WHO PASSED PRELIMINARIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
AS EXPECTED, EVERY-ONE'S GOOD.
パチパチ
Applause
!
パチパチパチパチ
Applause
cheering


IF I MAKE IT THROUGH THE PRELIMINARIES,
OH, A DIANA.
WHY IS THERE SO MUCH CHEERING AND APPLAUSE?!
IT'S A COMPETITION, RIGHT?
I'LL BE STANDING ON THIS STAGE!!
IN A YEAR,

THERE ARE PROBABLY MANY GIRLS AMONG THEM
AIMING FOR THE SAME SCHOLARSHIP...
AND
THEN
I'LL WELCOME YOU TO THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL.
THERE SHE IS!
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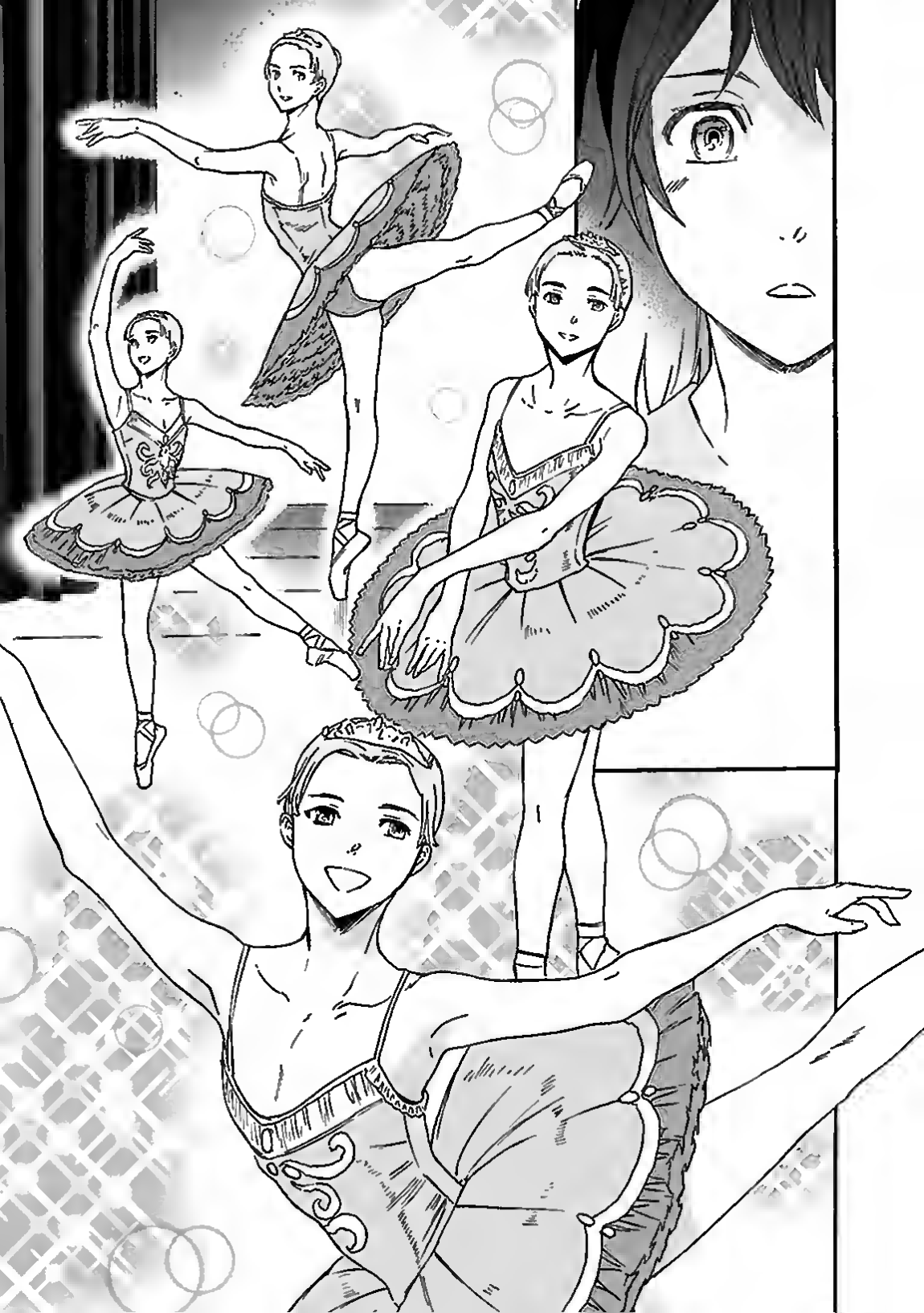
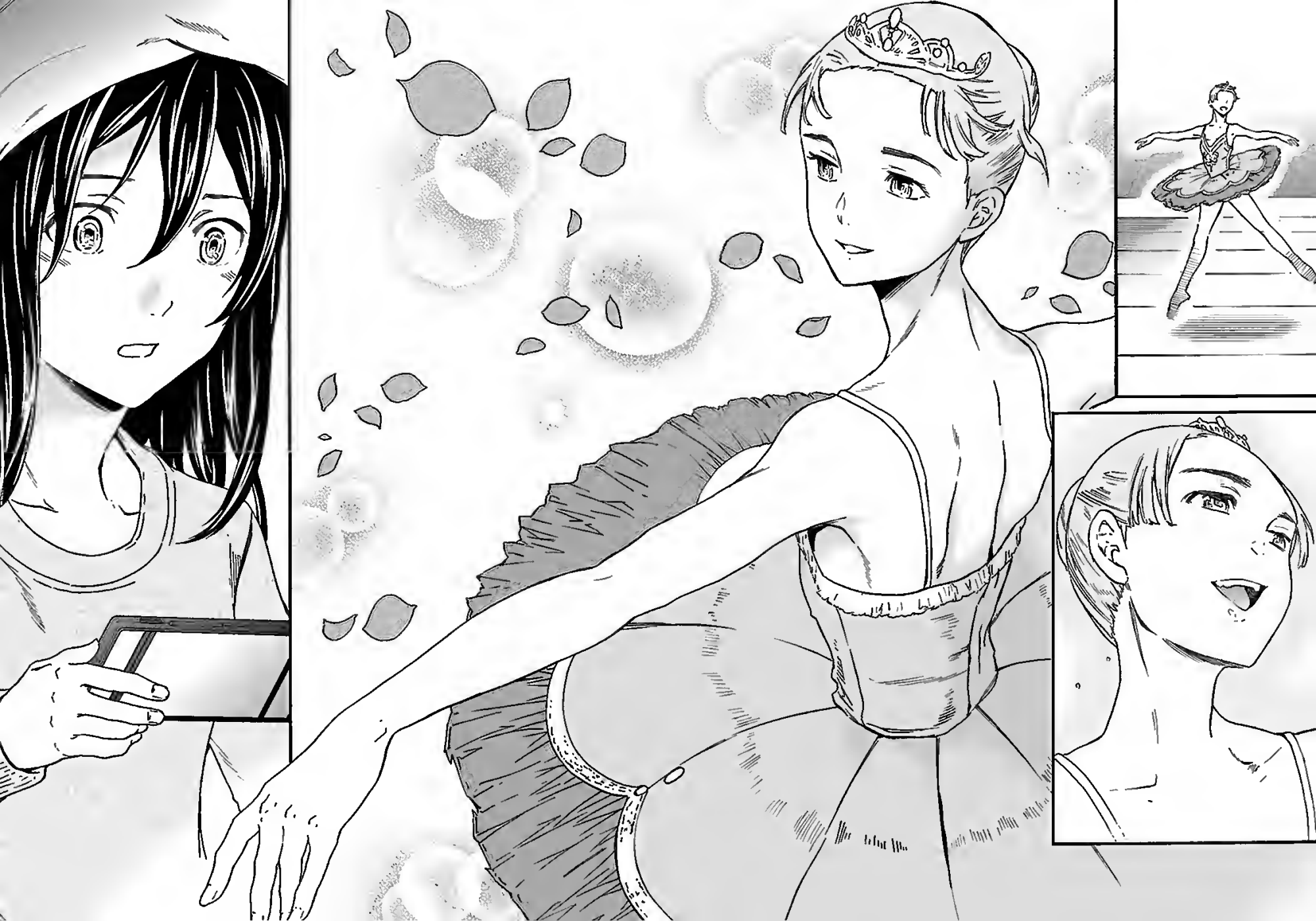
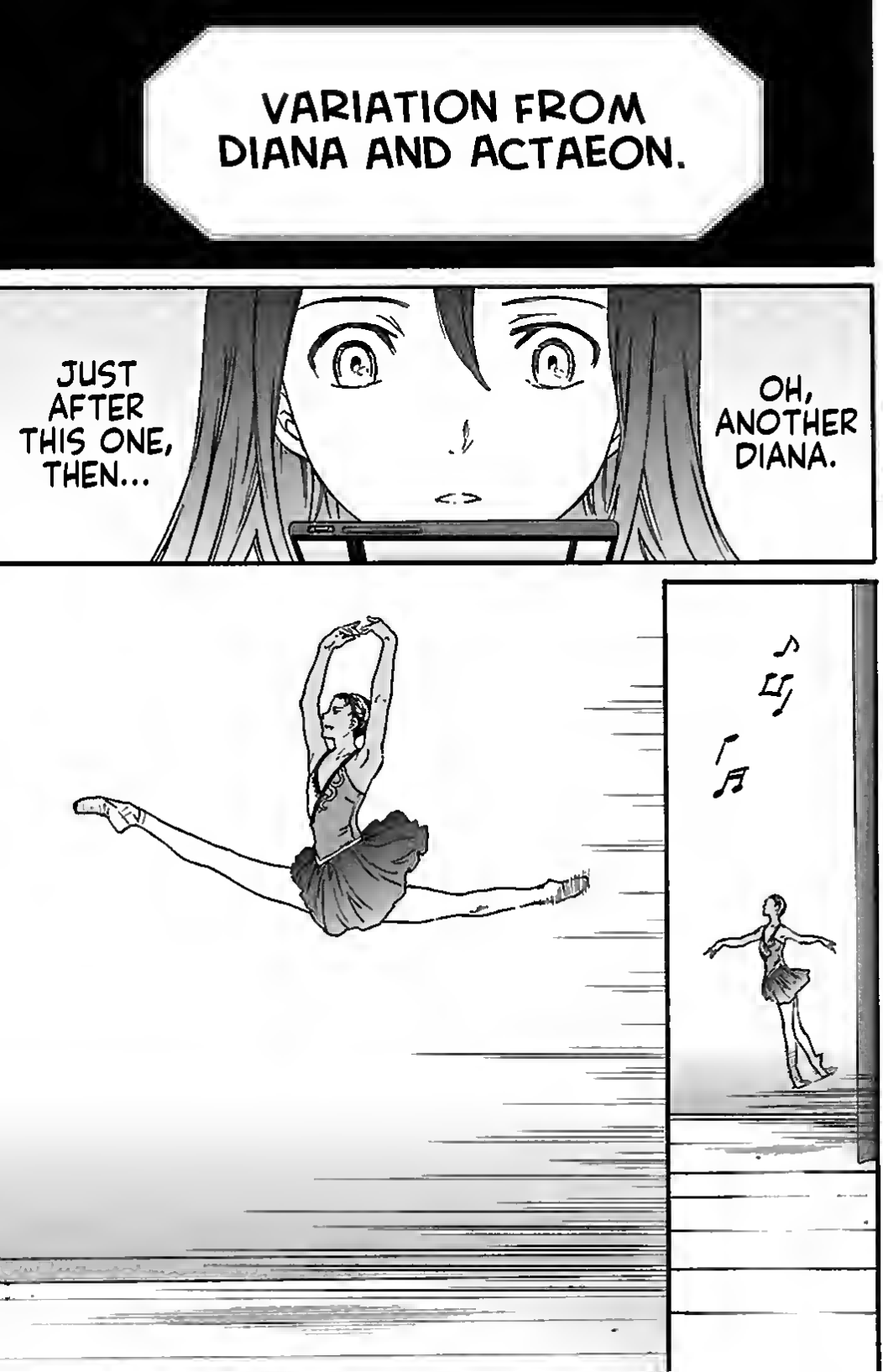
もだ
NUMBER 10, SAKURA KURISU,
VARIATION FROM THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.





LIKE SHOUKO-CHAN SAID,
HER AURORA IS TRULY NATURAL, SWEET AS A FLOWER.
I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU...
I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU BEFORE LONG, SAKURA.
WELL THEN, I'D LOVE TO WATCH MORE, BUT I'VE GOT SCHOOL TOMORROW...
VARIATION FROM DIANA AND ACTAEON
I SHOULD GET BACK TO SLEEP.


VARIATION FROM DIANA AND ACTAEON.
JUST AFTER THIS ONE, THEN...
OH, ANOTHER DIANA.

?!
SO HIGH!!

スッ
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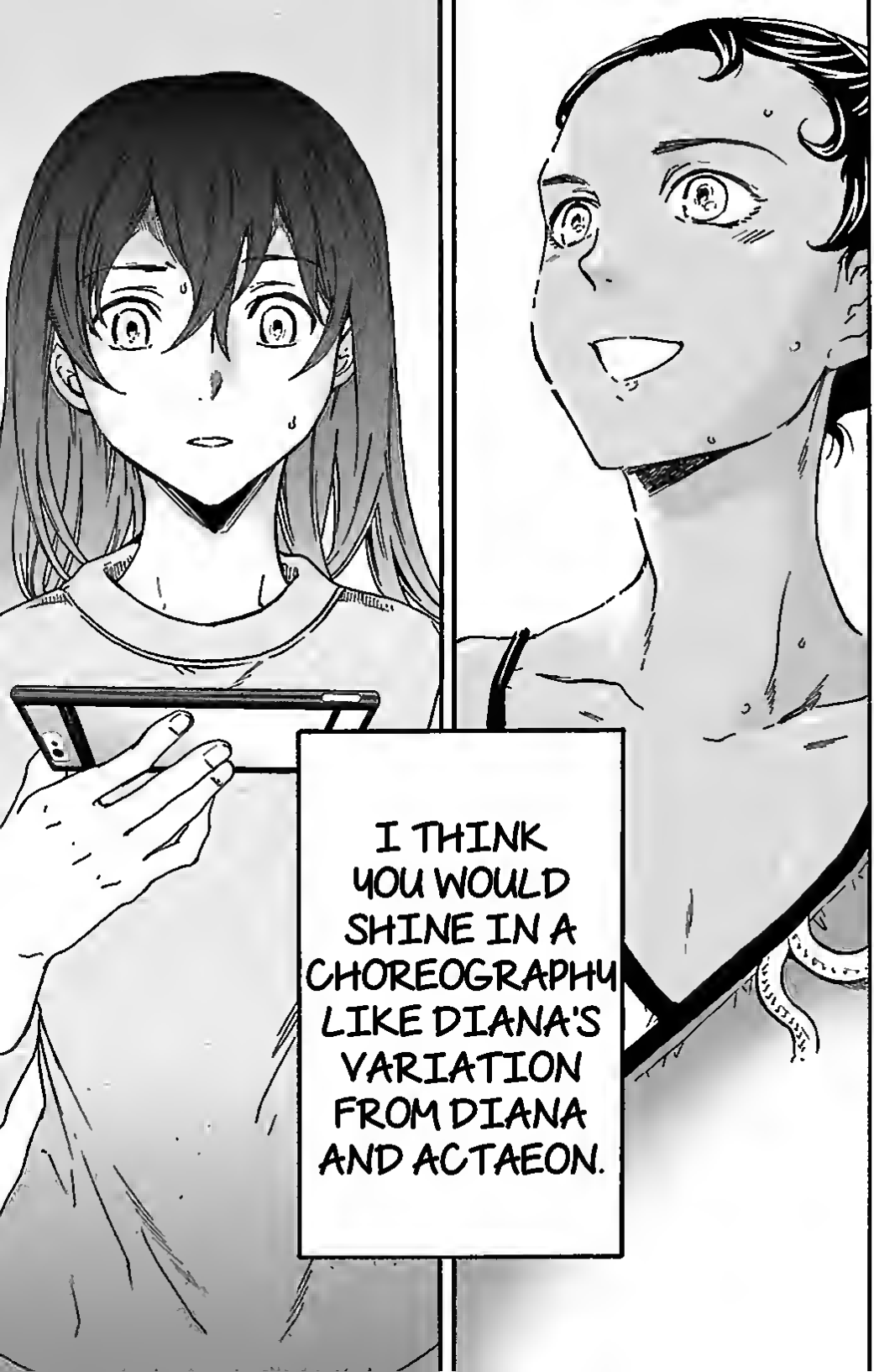
ドキ…

ゴゴゴ

KANA-
DE,

AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, YOUR STRENGTHS ARE LARGE, BRISK MOVEMENTS,
FAST ROTATIONS,
AND VERTICAL JUMPING STRENGTH.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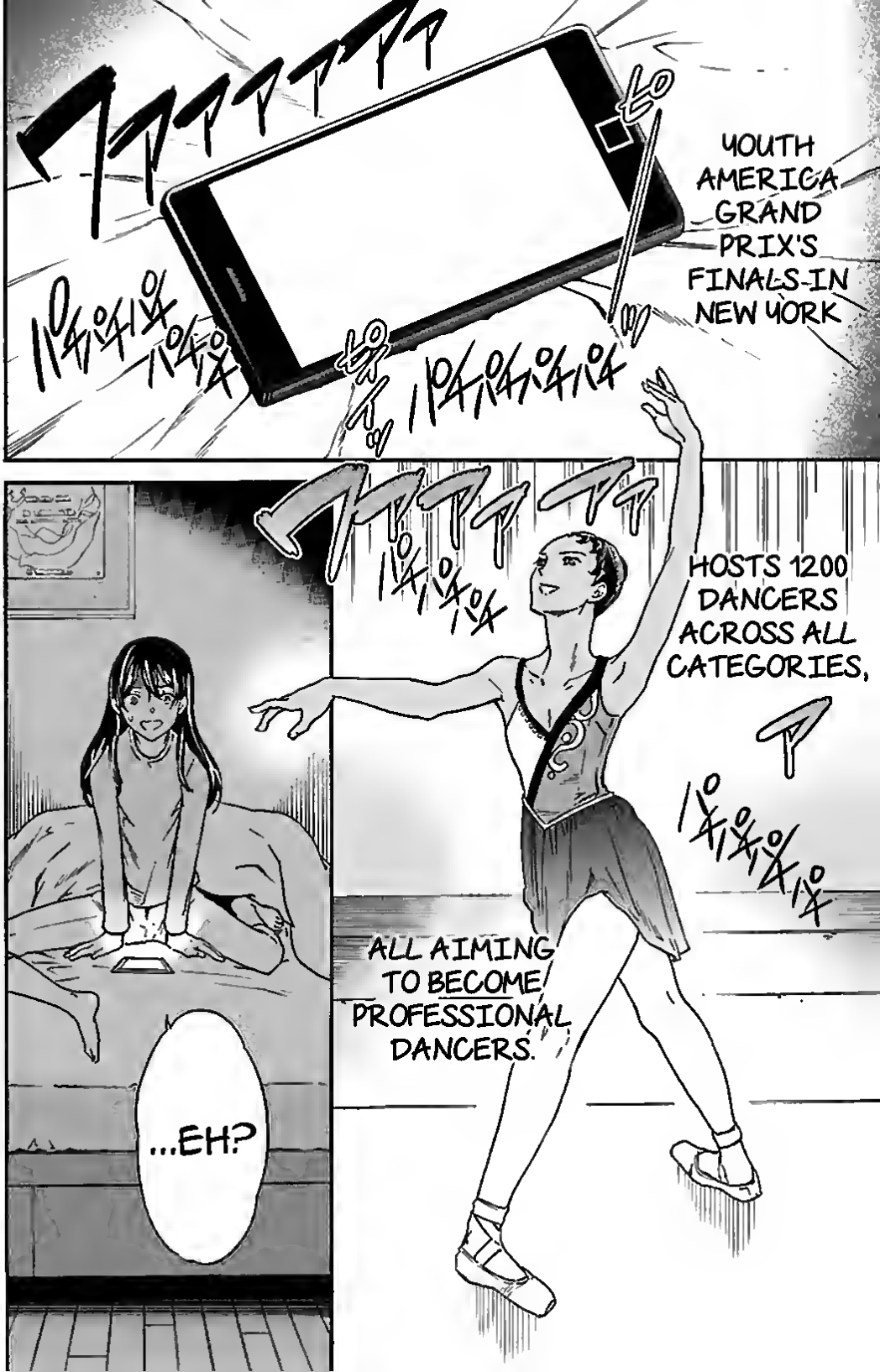
YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX'S FINALS IN NEW YORK
HOSTS 1200 DANCERS ACROSS ALL CATEGORIES,
ALL AIMING TO BECOME PROFESSIONAL DANCERS.
...EH?

絢爛たるグランドセーヌ

La Magnifique Grande Scène.
presented by Cuvie